

**From:** Charles Boncelet  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 8:37am  
**Subject:** Microsoft settlement

I am a Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering, with a joint appointment in Computer & Information Sciences at the University of Delaware. I have published widely in these areas for 20 years.

In my opinion, the proposed settlement does nothing to curb Microsoft's excesses. Over the years, Microsoft has used (and abused) its monopoly position to stifle innovation and eliminate the competition in many ways.

I suggest Microsoft be split into two companies, one responsible for operating systems (e.g., Windows) and one for applications, e.g., Office. Failing that, the government should insist on at least three things:

1. The file formats used by applications such as Office should be made open the public. This would allow other, generally much smaller, companies to produce products that interoperate with Microsoft's. (What Microsoft did to the the office productivity software producers far exceeded in its venality what they did to Netscape in the browser wars.)
2. Any networking standards used in Microsoft products should be open and public. Again, this would allow other products to interoperate with Microsoft's. This is crucial in a modern, networked computer world.
3. Disallow any contracts between Microsoft and computer vendors that restrict the ability of the computer vendors to supply alternative software and operating systems on their computers. Computer vendors should be allowed without penalty to produce machines that run linux, BEOS, MAC OS, etc without interference from or titling due to Microsoft.

Microsoft has been a cancer on the industry. Please do not allow them to continue.

Sincerely,  
Charles Boncelet

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